other cause than a regulator action already exerted in the nerve centres. It would evidently be very difficult and altogether unprofitable, in the present state of our knowledge, to try to formulate hypotheses in regard to the organs that may exercise this function, or as to their probable mode of action ; but the cases where this regulating influence is lacking are very easily recognized.

One of these cases presents special points of interest, inasmuch as it still belongs to the physiological domain ; it is the tremor that is seen in strongly contracted muscles when we seek to overcome a resistance by the greatest possible effort. In order to see if the oscillations of such a tremor follow any constant rhythm, Löven registered graphically by a very simple procedure the oscillations that occur in the muscles of the arm when an attempt is made to flex a very resistant bar of steel, and he found that in a number of healthy persons the rhythm of these oscillations was very regular at 12-13 per second.

He thinks that we may admit, without too much assumption, that these oscillations are, in fact, nothing else than the expression of the simple muscular contractions, which in an excessive effort of the motor centres cannot be sufficiently blended to produce a perfect continuous tetanus.

At the end of his paper M. Löven called attention to various applications that could be made of these views in the explanation of certain characteristic phenomena of some pathological conditions of the motor system.

VASO-MOTORS OF THE LYMPHATICS.—MM. Paul Bert and Laffont have, by opening the abdomen of an animal in the full process of digestion under warm water, discovered the vasomotor nerves of the lymphatics. In this operation, the chyliferous vessels appear as white cords, and nodosities are formed along them by excitation of the solar plexus or the great splanchnic nerve. Their experiments were reported to the Société de Biologie, April 2, of this year.

ORIGIN OF THE CRANIAL NERVES.—Duval (*Progrès Médical*, Nos. 15 and 16, 1881), before the Paris Biological Society, read a paper on the subject of the cranial nerves originating as spinal nerves with intumescences, in which he dealt more especially with the olfactory and fifth pair. The ganglion of Gasser is easily recognizable as an intervertebral ganglion, and Duval is evidently unacquainted with the lengthy paper read at the last Boston meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, August 28, 1880, by Dr. S. V. Clevenger, of Chicago, who not only brought the intervertebral homology to bear upon all the cranial nerves, but insisted that the cerebrum, olivary body, mammillary eminence, and tubercular quadrigemina were originally swellings upon the roots of posterior sensory nerves, and that the cerebellum was formed from a great number of fused hypertrophied intervertebral ganglia (JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE, October, 1880). The tendency of French and German journals to ignore American scientific work is not a little remarkable.—*Chicago Med. Review*, June 5.

INFLUENCE OF SECTION OF THE TRIGEMINUS ON THE EYE. —At the session of the Soc. de Biologie. Apr. 2 (rep. in *Le Progrès Médical*), M. Poncet (of Cluny) communicated the result of some investigations on the effects of section of the trigeminus upon the eye. After having shown that physiologists disagree to a considerable extent in the acceptance of the traumatic theory of the consecutive corneal ulcer, he showed the part that the discoveries of Franck, and Dastre and Morat should play in the pathology of the trigeminus ; the former having demonstrated the action of a special sympathetic filament, and the latter authors having proved the vaso-dilating action of the sympathetic on the labial mucous membrane. M. Poncet has been able to determine, with M. Dastre, that vaso-dilatation by excitation of the great sympathetic extends to the veins of the retina.

In the eyes of a rabbit, after section of the trigeminus performed by M. Laborde himself, and dating back 8, 15, and 30 days, and one year, he found the following conditions : 1. As regards the corneal nerves, the degeneration of which has been so well described by M. Ranvier, he also found, after a year, the complete regeneration of the corneal plexus, in a manner altogether unlike the normal type. In the middle of the inextricable nervous maze, are found nerve sheaths in which the old tubes have not been regenerated. 2. The keratitis which may accompany an exudation into the interior chamber affects especially the superficial layers of the cornea. Neither iritis, nor suppuration of the process, nor posterior choroiditis, nor humoral disorder, nor migration of pigment in the retina, nor detachment of that membrane, were ob-